

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A catalyst body comprising

(1) a honeycomb carrier having at least one main component;

(2) a catalyst layer comprising

(a) an alkali metal,

(b) a heat-resistant inorganic oxide, and

(c) a noble metal loaded on the heat-resistant inorganic oxide, and

(3) an anchor substance present in the catalyst layer that reacts predominantly with said alkali metal when compared with main components of the honeycomb carrier, whereby any reaction between main components of the carrier and said alkali metal is suppressed and the deterioration of the carrier is suppressed.

13. (Previously Presented) A catalyst body according to Claim 12, wherein the anchor substance that reacts predominantly with the alkali metal is at least one member selected from the group consisting of B, Al, Si, P, S, Cl, V, Cr, Mn, Ga, Ge, As, Se, Br, Zr, Mo, Sn, Sb, I and W.

14. (Previously Presented) A catalyst body according to Claim 12, wherein at least one member of the noble metal loaded on the heat-resistant inorganic oxide is selected from the group consisting of Pt, Pd and Rh.

15. (Previously Presented) A catalyst body according to Claim 12, wherein the main component of the carrier is cordierite.

16. (Currently Amended) A catalyst body comprising

(1) a honeycomb carrier having at least one main component;

(2) a catalyst layer comprising

(a) an alkali metal,

(b) a heat-resistant inorganic oxide, and

(c) a noble metal loaded on the heat-resistant inorganic oxide, and

(3) an anchor substance present in the carrier that reacts predominantly with said alkali metal and which is at least one member selected from the group consisting of B, Al, Si, P, S, Cl, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Ga, Ge, As, Se, Br, Zr, Mo, Sn, Sb, I and W, whereby any reaction between main components of the carrier and said alkali

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metal is suppressed and the deterioration of the carrier is suppressed.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) A catalyst body according to Claim 16, wherein at least one member of the noble metal loaded on the heat-resistant inorganic oxide is selected from the group consisting of Pt, Pd and Rh.

19. (Previously Presented) A catalyst body according to Claim 16, wherein the main component of the carrier is cordierite.

20. (Previously Presented) A catalyst body comprising

- (1) a honeycomb carrier having at least one main component;
- (2) a catalyst layer comprising
 - (a) an alkali metal,
 - (b) a heat-resistant inorganic oxide, and
 - (c) a noble metal loaded on the heat-resistant inorganic oxide, and

(3) an anchor substance present between the carrier and the catalyst layer that reacts predominantly with said alkali metal, whereby any reaction between main components of the carrier and said alkali metal is suppressed and the deterioration of the carrier is suppressed.

21. (Previously Presented) A catalyst body according to Claim 20, wherein the anchor substance that reacts predominantly with the alkali metal is at least one member selected from the group consisting of B, Al, Si, P, S, Cl, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Ga, Ge, As, Se, Br, Zr, Mo, Sn, Sb, I and W.

22. (Previously Presented) A catalyst body according to Claim 20, wherein at least one member of the noble metal loaded on the heat-resistant inorganic oxide is selected from the group consisting of Pt, Pd and Rh.

23. (Previously Presented) A catalyst body according to Claim 20, wherein the main component of the carrier is cordierite.